

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 /022 W

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P R 310743Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7533

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECA

SUBJECT: ECA UNDER ADEDEJI'S LEADERSHIP

REF: A) STATE 302015, B) ADDIS A-220 OF DEC 22

1. ASSESSMENT OF ADEDEJI ADMINISTRATION OF ECA REQUESTED REFTEL HAS IN LARGE PART BEEN TREATED IN REF B. ADEDEJI'S REPORT TO 13TH MEETING OF THE ECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS A WORKING PAPER ENTITLED "REVISED FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IN AFRICA" ARE ATTACHED TO REF B AND PROVIDE A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF ADEDEJI'S VIEWS REGARDING ECA AND ITS ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. A SUMMARY OF MAJOR POINTS CONTAINED IN THESE DOCUMENTS FOLLOWS.

A. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS ECA HAS BEEN CONSIDERING A RESTRUCTURING OF ITS WORK PROGRAM AND OF THE SECRETARIAT ITSELF. ADEDEJI, HOWEVER, DID NOT REVEAL HOW THE SECRETARIAT IS LIKELY TO BE RESTRUCTURED NOR DID HE MAKE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE WORK PROGRAM. RATHER, THE WORKING PAPER MENTIONED ABOVE PUTS FORTH PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THIS WORKING APPER IN FEBRUARY.

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B. REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE ECA SECRETARIAT, HE STRESSED THE

NEED FOR (1) INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES, (2) A SHIFT FROM RESEARCH AND STUDIES TO CONCRETE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATIONS WITH UNDP WHICH HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER FINANCING MULTINATIONAL PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY ECA UP TO A TOTAL OF US\$10 MILLION, (3) THE INITIATION OF STUDIES ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF RAW MATERIALS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING HOW FAR COOPERATION AMONG STATES IN THE FORM OF PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATIONS CAN BENEFIT PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND (4) SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION. ECA IS ALSO CONSIDERING A LONG SERIES OF PROPOSALS IN LINE WITH RECENT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ECOSOC WHICH CHARGED REGIONAL COMMISSIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROMOTION OF INTER-REGIONAL AND INTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION, ESTABLISHMENT OF LIAISON AND SUPPORT UNITS IN THE COMMISSIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INFORMATION RESEARCH CENTER ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, ETC.

C. WHILE ADEDEJI IS CERTAINLY SYMPATHETIC TO SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES ARTICULATED IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER PRESENTATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD, HIS WORKING PAPER POINTS OUT WITH AN AMAZING DEGREE OF CANDOR AND ACCURACY THE DIFFICULTIES FACING AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES. AN UNDERLINING THEME THROUGHOUT IS THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES UNDERTAKING THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THEIR PEOPLE. IT IS A WELL-BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE PRESENTATION.

D. WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH THE OAU, ADEDEJI (AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR) GIVES CONSIDERABLE LIP SERVICE TO THE CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND OF HIS DETERMINATION TO ENHANCE MUTUAL COOPERATION. NEVERTHELESS, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE CHANGE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. OAU CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM POOR, INADEQUATELY TRAINED STAFF AND INFERIOR LEADERSHIP, WHEREAS THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF AT ECA HAS NO DESIRE TO BE DRAWN INTO OAU POLITICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC DISPUTES. ADEDEJI DOES HAVE TO COPE FROM TIME TO TIME WITH DEMANDS MADE BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEADS OF STATE. HE SPECIFICALLY WAS REQUESTED BY GENERAL AMIN TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UGANDAN ECONOMY. THUS FAR, IT APPEARS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH REQUESTS OF THIS TYPE IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT DETRACT FROM HIS VIEWS OF ECA'S PRIORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. DR. ADEDEJI'S PERFORMANCE AS A LEADER HAS BEEN HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE. UNDP AS WELL AS ECA STAFF WERE PLEASED BY HIS

STRONG LEADERSHIP AT THE RECENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. HE ALSO INVOLVES HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN CERTAIN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON REMOTE SENSING. ADMINISTRATION OF ECA, HOWEVER, IS NOT THE BEST, PARTLY BECAUSE ADEDEJI MAINTAINS AN EXTENSIVE TRAVEL PROGRAM WHICH TAKES HIM OUT OF ADDIS FREQUENTLY AND PARTLY BECAUSE HE HAS NOT YET SELECTED A DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO ACT AS HIS ALTER EGO IN MANAGING THE ECA SECRETARIAT.

3. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE FOREGOING ASSESSMENT IS HIGHLY TENTATIVE IN NATURE. ADEDEJI'S OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND OPERATING PROCEDURES ARE STILL UNCLEAR OWING TO THE SHORT TIME HE HAS BEEN IN HIS POSITION AS WELL AS HIS FREQUENT ABSENCES FROM ADDIS. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT HE IS STILL WORKING THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR ECA AS HE BECOMES MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE SECRETARIAT'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AND THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION HE CAN EXPECT FROM AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. THE UPCOMING JOINT ECA/AID REVIEW SHOULD REVEAL, IN MORE CONCRETE TERMS, HIS SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST FOR US AID SUPPORT. IT IS LIKELY THAT REMOTE SENSING WILL BE HIGH ON HIS LIST. ASIDE FROM THIS AREA, AND POSSIBLY UNDATS, THE EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATIONS OF HIS PREFERENCES FOR AID SUPPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS14948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0105
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975123/aaaaabsk.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 302015
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECA UNDER ADEDEJI'S LEADERSHIP
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, ET, XA, ECA, (ADEBAYO ADEDEJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006